THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
FANTASTIC FOUR
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Fantastic Four
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE MONSTER FROM THE LOST LAGOON!

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Joe Weider, Trainer of Champions Since 1936, Produces Another Breakthrough!

THIS DELICIOUS ZESTFUL DRINK PUTS AN END TO THE SKINNY BODY!

You Drink on Up to A-Pound-A-Day... 14 Pounds in 14 Days or Every Penny Back!

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by putting an end to your skinny body—

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No Dieting. No Exercise. It's the new kicky, lazy way to "drink on" figure-shaping pounds. ▪ It's an instant body-shaper! You become a totally new breed of wildcat! ▪ New life, new loves! ▪ Power-packed pounds enhance your whole way of life! ▪ You look better, feel better. You become a new, fresh, exciting personality! ▪ So easy! You "drink on" weight secretly, discreetly. And weight stays on! ▪

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Joe Weider, trainer of champions, has discovered the way to a healthier, happier, more virile you in just 14 days! This totally new and nutritional drink is absolutely guaranteed to put an end to your hungry-looking body, to fill out your narrow, shallow chest, your skinny arms and spindly legs—fast! JUST DRINK 4 ZESTFUL GLASSES DAILY, with your regular meals, and you take in up to 3,500 extra calories a day! Crash Weight Gain Formula #7 does all the work for you—making you a handsomer, more exciting take-charge guy who can perform like a tiger from morning to night! It's the only crash weight program tested and proved through university research. Complete documented report available on request. It really works!

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FOR MEN OF ALL AGES WHO WANT TO "SHAPE UP" FAST!
Turn your weight-gains into solid muscle. This 48-page illustrated guide filled with latest ideas on how you can "Muscle up" to a handsome muscular body. Guaranteed to add 3" to your arms, 6" to your chest, 3" to your legs—fast!

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Here's a Mini-Course that transforms you from a scrawny "No-Body" to a curvy caressable Some-Body! Reshape your figure—chest blossoms, thighs, arms, legs, lose their bony, ugly look. You become a whole new Happy Happening in 14 days! Choice of One Course Free With Every Purchase!

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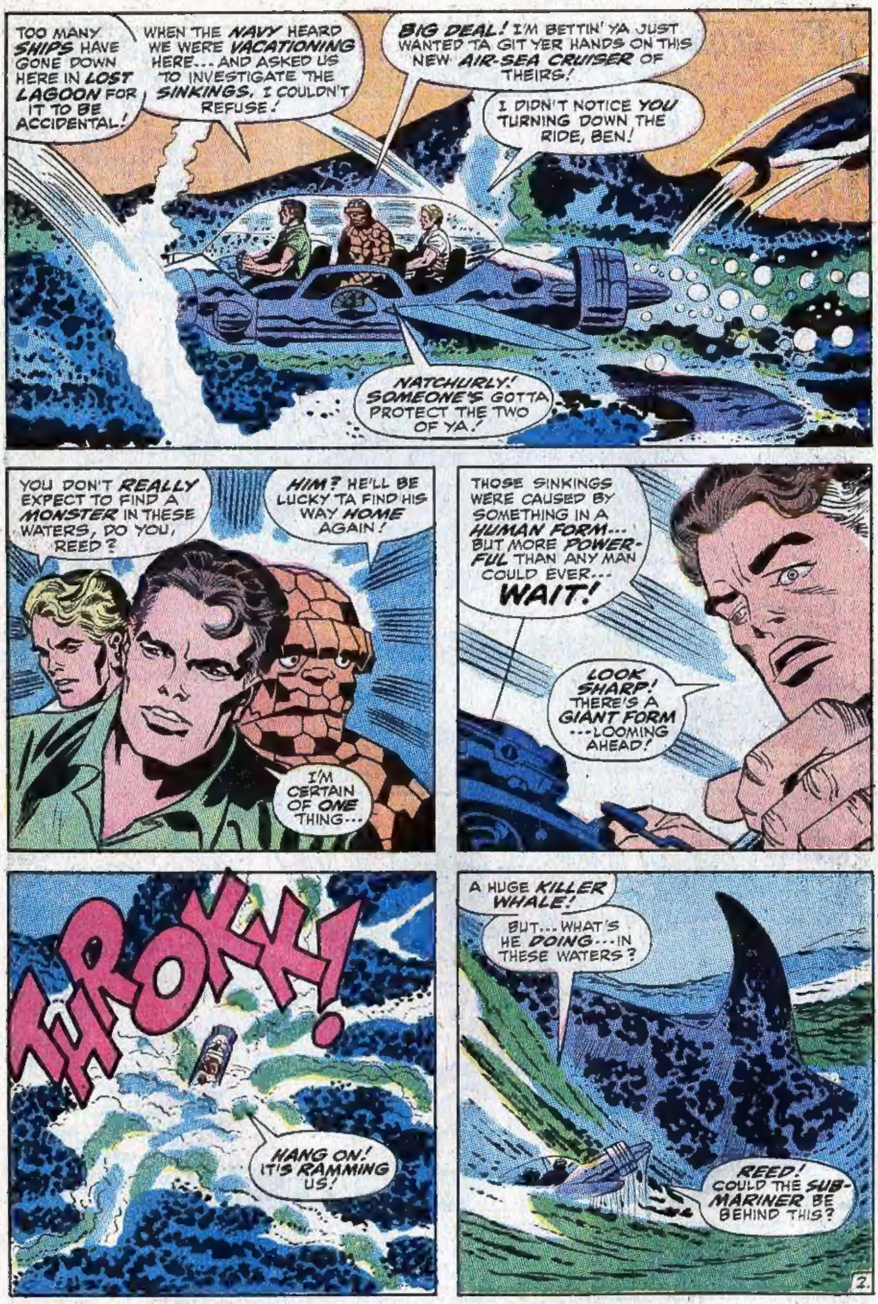
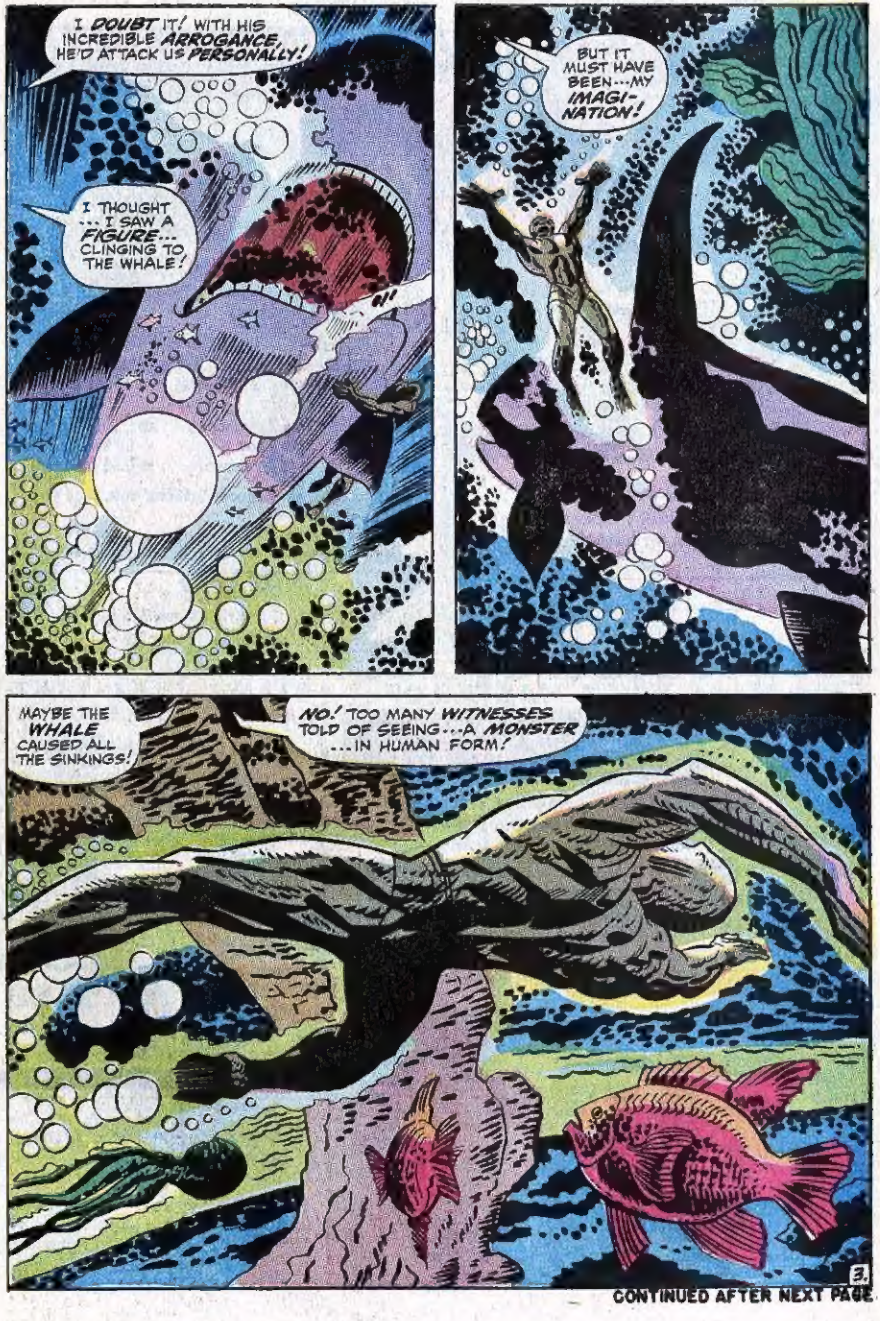

TOO MANY SHIPS HAVE GONE DOWN HERE IN LOST LAGOON FOR IT TO BE ACCIDENTAL!
WHEN THE NAVY HEARD WE WERE VACATIONING HERE... AND ASKED US TO INVESTIGATE THE SINKINGS, I COULDN'T REFUSE!
BIG DEAL! I'M BETTIN' YA JUST WANTED TA GIT YER HANDS ON THIS NEW AIR-SEA CRUISER OF THEIRS!
I DIDN'T NOTICE YOU TURNING DOWN THE RIDE, BEN!
NATCHURLY! SOMEONE'S GOTTA PROTECT THE TWO OF YA!
YOU DON'T REALLY EXPECT TO FIND A MONSTER IN THESE WATERS, DO YOU, REED?
HIM? HE'LL BE LUCKY TA FIND HIS WAY HOME AGAIN!
I'M CERTAIN OF ONE THING...
THOSE SINKINGS WERE CAUSED BY SOMETHING IN A HUMAN FORM... BUT MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY MAN COULD EVER... WAIT!
LOOK SHARP! THERE'S A GIANT FORM ...LOOMING AHEAD!
THROKK!
HANG ON! IT'S RAMMING US!
A HUGE KILLER WHALE!
BUT... WHAT'S HE DOING... IN THESE WATERS?
REED! COULD THE SUB-MARINER BE BEHIND THIS?
2



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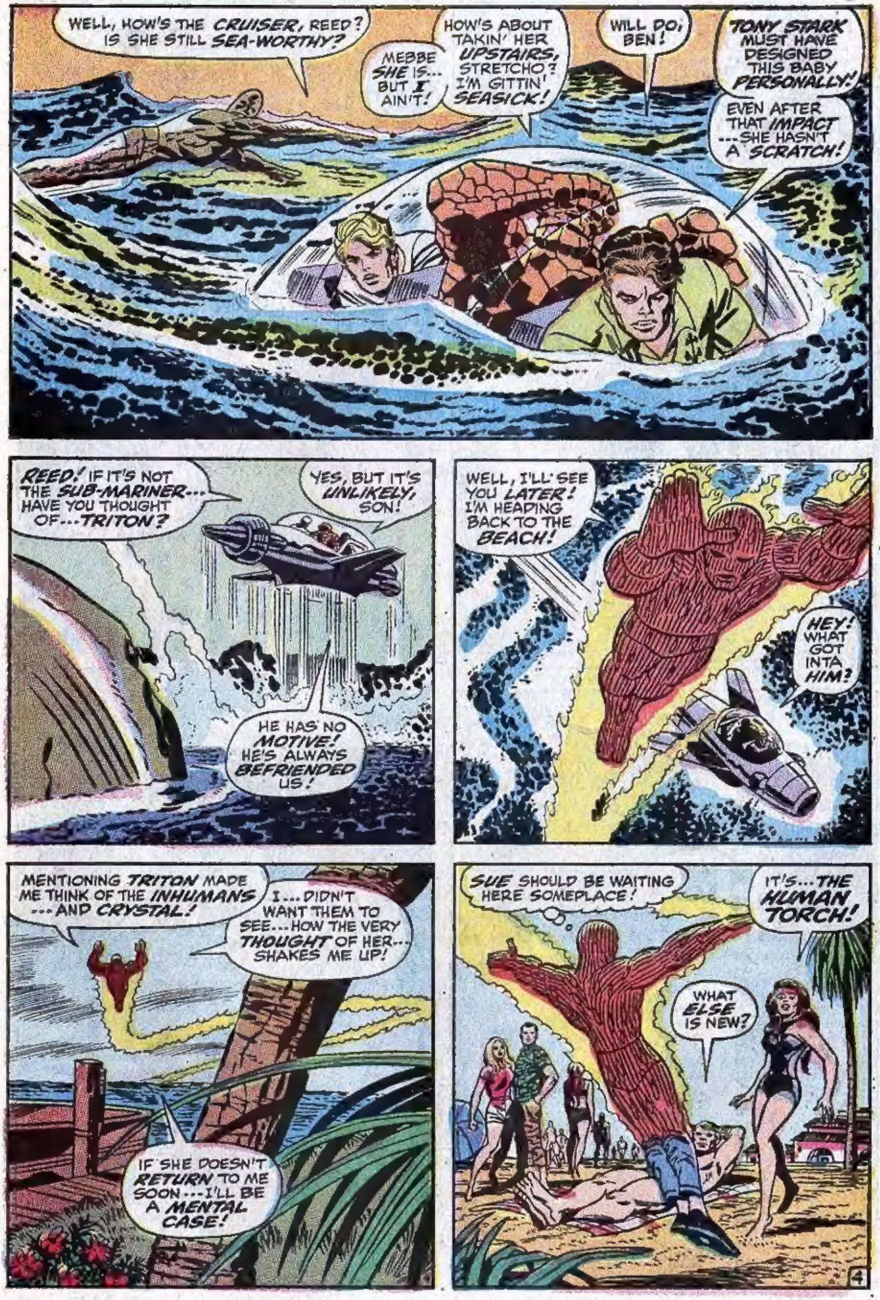
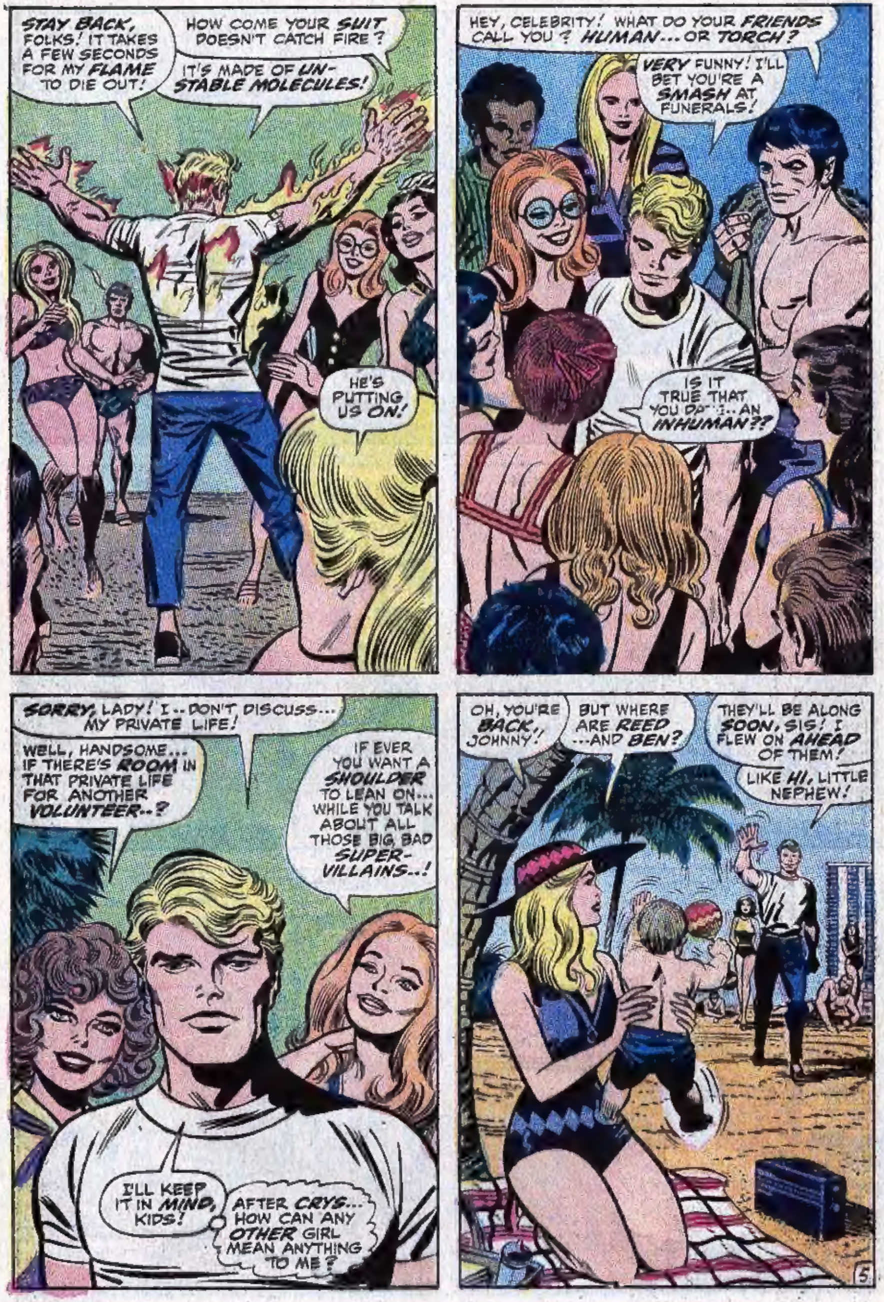
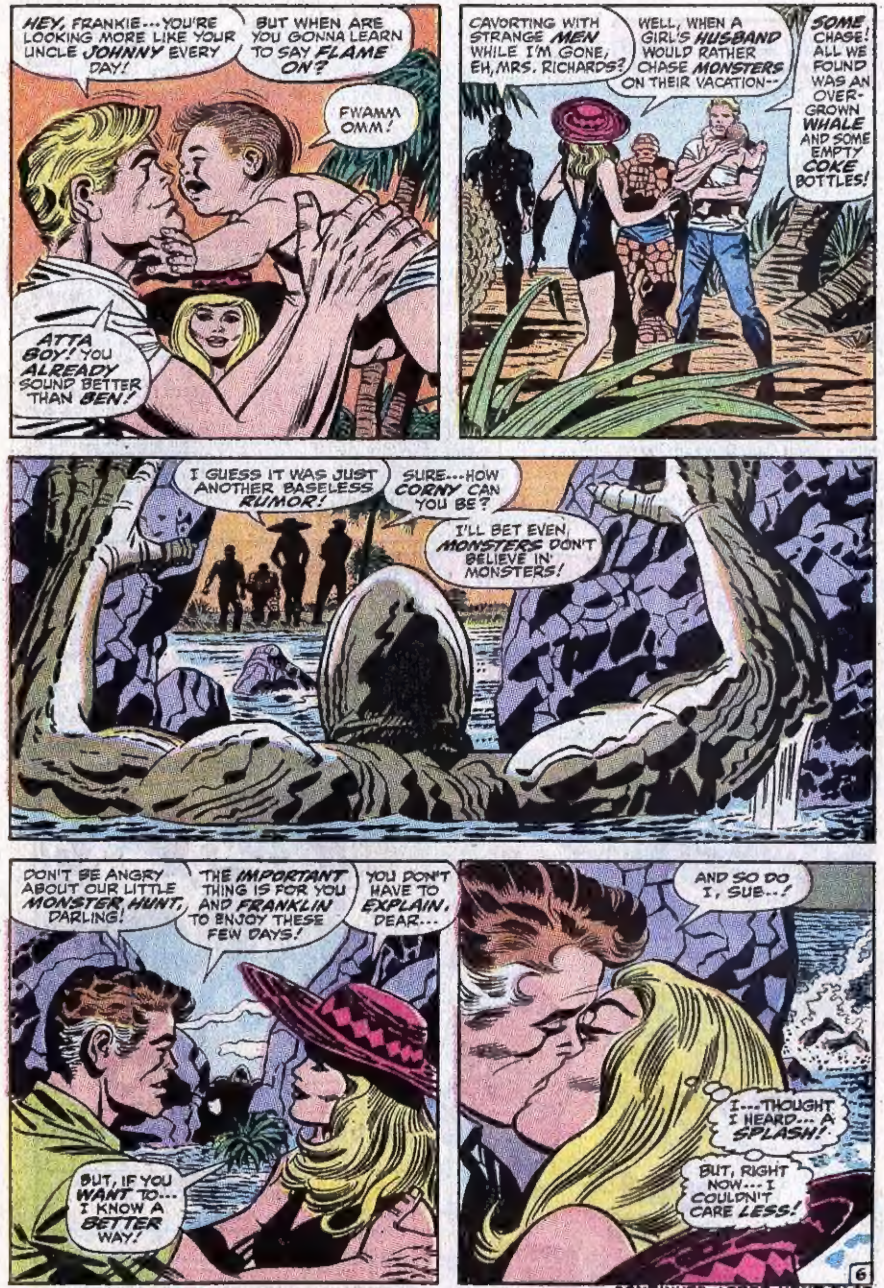


WELL, HOW'S THE CRUISER, REED? IS SHE STILL SEA-WORTHY?
MEBBE SHE IS... BUT I AIN'T!
HOW'S ABOUT TAKIN' HER UPSTAIRS, STRETCHO? I'M GITTIN' SEASICK!
WILL DO, BEN!
TONY STARK MUST HAVE DESIGNED THIS BABY PERSONALLY!
EVEN AFTER THAT IMPACT ...SHE HASN'T A SCRATCH!
REED! IF IT'S NOT THE SUB-MARINER... HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF...TRITON?
YES, BUT IT'S UNLIKELY, SON!
HE HAS NO MOTIVE! HE'S ALWAYS BEFRIENDED US!
WELL, I'LL SEE YOU LATER! I'M HEADING BACK TO THE BEACH!
HEY! WHAT GOT INTA HIM?
MENTIONING TRITON MADE ME THINK OF THE INHUMANS ...AND CRYSTAL!
I...DIDN'T WANT THEM TO SEE...HOW THE VERY THOUGHT OF HER... SHAKES ME UP!
IF SHE DOESN'T RETURN TO ME SOON...I'LL BE A MENTAL CASE!
SUE SHOULD BE WAITING HERE SOMEPLACE!
IT'S...THE HUMAN TORCH!
WHAT ELSE IS NEW?
4


STAY BACK, FOLKS! IT TAKES A FEW SECONDS FOR MY FLAME TO DIE OUT!
HOW COME YOUR SUIT DOESN'T CATCH FIRE?
IT'S MADE OF UN-STABLE MOLECULES!
HE'S PUTTING US ON!
HEY, CELEBRITY! WHAT DO YOUR FRIENDS CALL YOU? HUMAN... OR TORCH?
VERY FUNNY! I'LL BET YOU'RE A SMASH AT FUNERALS!
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU DA... AN INHUMAN??
SORRY, LADY! I.. DON'T DISCUSS... MY PRIVATE LIFE!
WELL, HANDSOME... IF THERE'S ROOM IN THAT PRIVATE LIFE FOR ANOTHER VOLUNTEER..?
IF EVER YOU WANT A SHOULDER TO LEAN ON... WHILE YOU TALK ABOUT ALL THOSE BIG, BAD SUPER-VILLAINS..!
I'LL KEEP IT IN MIND, KIDS!
AFTER CRYS... HOW CAN ANY OTHER GIRL MEAN ANYTHING TO ME?
OH, YOU'RE BACK, JOHNNY!
BUT WHERE ARE REED ...AND BEN?
THEY'LL BE ALONG SOON, SIS! I FLEW ON AHEAD OF THEM!
LIKE HI, LITTLE NEPHEW!
5



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THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #96: The Mad Thinker is back—more powerful than ever, and aided by his Androids of Death! 'Nuff said!

SPIDER-MAN #82: This is a special ish, in more ways than one! Starring the eerie menace of—Electro! And wait till you see the art!

SILVER SURFER #13: A doomsday bomb, about to destroy the earth! The Surfer,alone on an isle of death! It's drama beyond compare!

AVENGERS #73: The Black Panther battles alone—against the sinister Sons of the Serpent! An instant classic!

THOR #173: All of you could ask for—and more! Ulik unleashed! The Ringmaster and his Circus of Crime! And action! Action! Action!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #123: Can a female defeat Cap? Don't answer till you meet Suprema, deadliest of the species!

X-MEN #65: The return of the most unexpected mutant of all! Plus—a battle royal against—the Star Spawn!

DAREDEVIL #61: The leering, lethal Jester—the cunning Cobra—the unstoppable Mr. Hyde! And all they want is—DD's death!

HULK #125: The Absorbing Man is back—and ol' Green-Skin's got him! Or—is it the other way around? The answer'll rock ya!

IRON MAN #23: There's never been a hired assassin like—the Mercenary! If you like duel—to—the death thrills, this one's for you!

SUB-MARINER #23: At last! The warlord Krang strikes back! Plus—the menace of Orka, the Human Killer Whale!

SGR. FURY #75: We call it "The Deserter!"—and you'll call it one of the greatest war-mags of all time! We kid you not!

TOWER OF SHADOWS #4: Marvel at its most macabre—with three of the most far-out fantasies of all! Watch out for falling bats!

MARVEL TALES #25: The web-spinner—the thunder god—and the battling, blazing fireball! Together again in one mag—and terrific!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #25: The Man Without Fear—and the Mutants Without Peer—in other words, DD and the X-Men ··· and a green-skinned surprise!

AND, OF COURSE—

MY LOVE #4—WHERE MONSTERS DWELL #2—RINGO KID #2—KID COLT OUTLAW #143—MILLIE THE MODEL #180—CHILI #11—MAD ABOUT MILLIE #9—HOMER THE HAPPY GHOST #3— and **PETER THE LITTLE PEST #3!**

and, STILL ON SALE—

CHAMBER OF DARKNESS #3: The night is dark—the moon is full—and mysterious Marvel's back with three of its spookiest tales yet!

CAPT. SAVAGE #18: It's action time—as Simon Savage blasts his way out of a death camp in the war-torn Pacific!

MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #25: The F.F.—fighting side by side with the Sub-Mariner! Not to mention Iron Man and Doc Strange!

Plus **OUR LOVE STORY #3—RAWHIDE KID #74**—and maybe another mag or two even we can't remember!

Whew!

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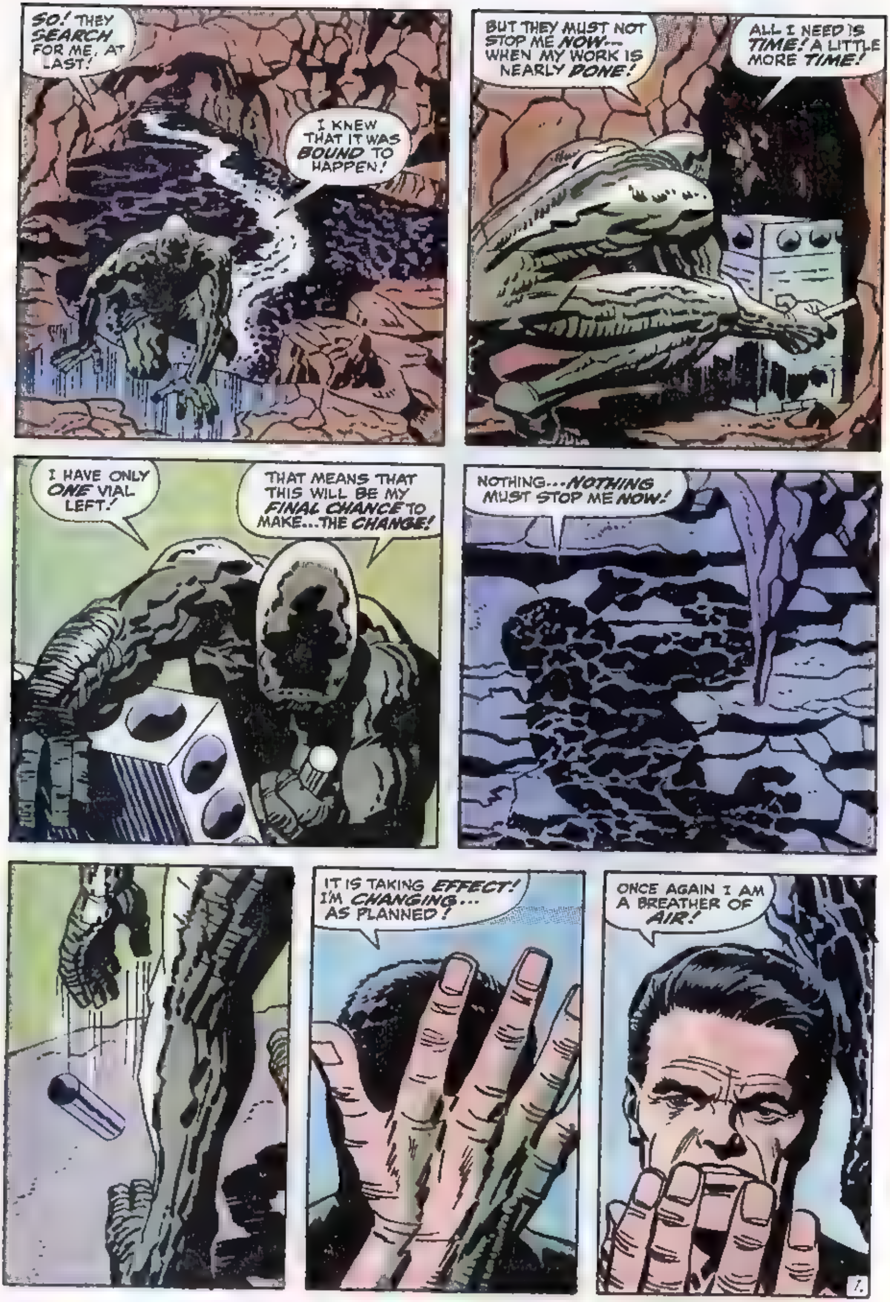
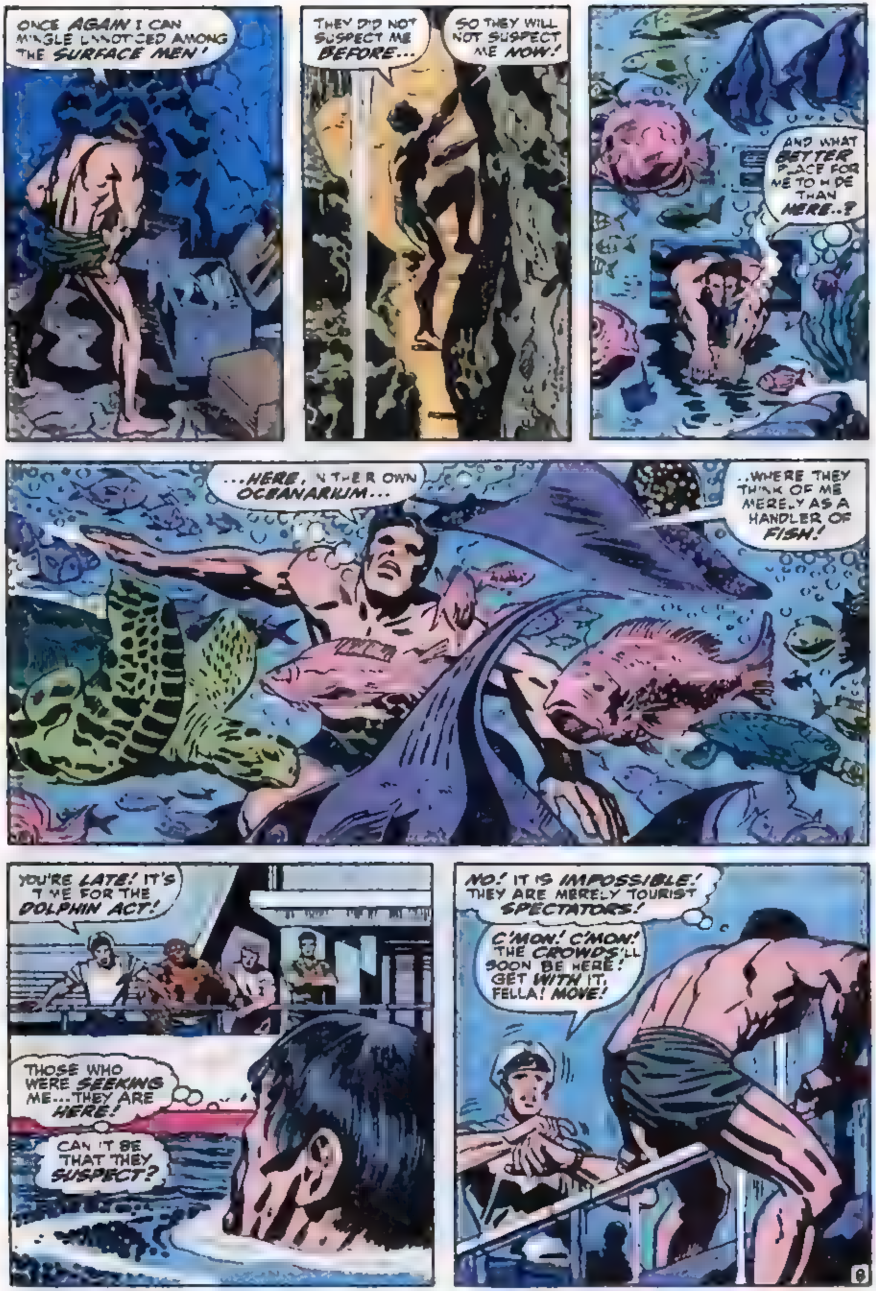
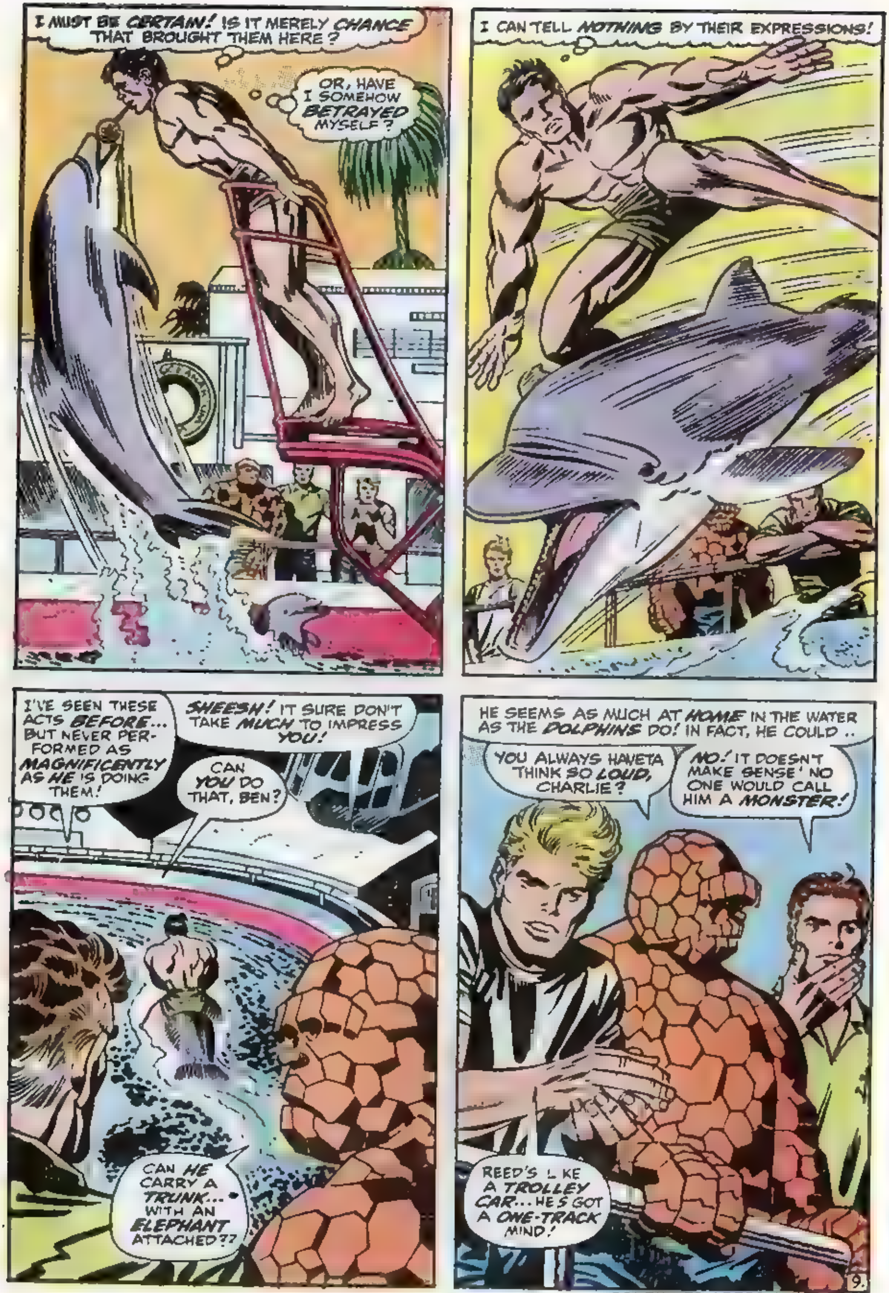

SO! THEY SEARCH FOR ME, AT LAST!
I KNEW THAT IT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN!
BUT THEY MUST NOT STOP ME NOW... WHEN MY WORK IS NEARLY DONE!
ALL I NEED IS TIME! A LITTLE MORE TIME!
I HAVE ONLY ONE VIAL LEFT!
THAT MEANS THAT THIS WILL BE MY FINAL CHANCE TO MAKE...THE CHANGE!
NOTHING...NOTHING MUST STOP ME NOW!
IT IS TAKING EFFECT! I'M CHANGING... AS PLANNED!
ONCE AGAIN I AM A BREATHER OF AIR!
7.


ONCE AGAIN I CAN MINGLE UNNOTICED AMONG THE SURFACE MEN!
THEY DID NOT SUSPECT ME BEFORE...
SO THEY WILL NOT SUSPECT ME NOW!
AND WHAT BETTER PLACE FOR ME TO HIDE THAN HERE..?
...HERE, IN THEIR OWN OCEANARIUM...
..WHERE THEY THINK OF ME MERELY AS A HANDLER OF FISH!
YOU'RE LATE! IT'S TIME FOR THE DOLPHIN ACT!
THOSE WHO WERE SEEKING ME...THEY ARE HERE!
CAN IT BE THAT THEY SUSPECT?
NO! IT IS IMPOSSIBLE! THEY ARE MERELY TOURIST SPECTATORS!
C'MON! C'MON! THE CROWDS'LL SOON BE HERE! GET WITH IT, FELLA! MOVE!
8



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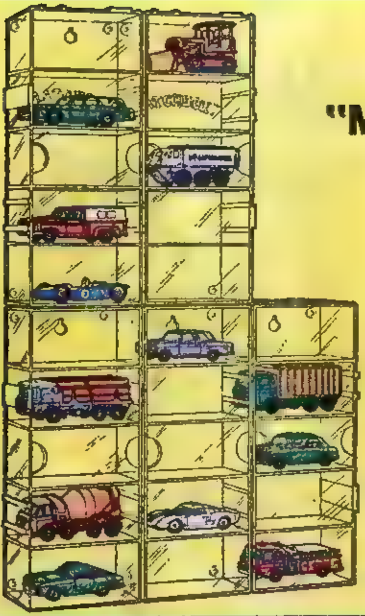

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Print Your Last Name Plainly Here

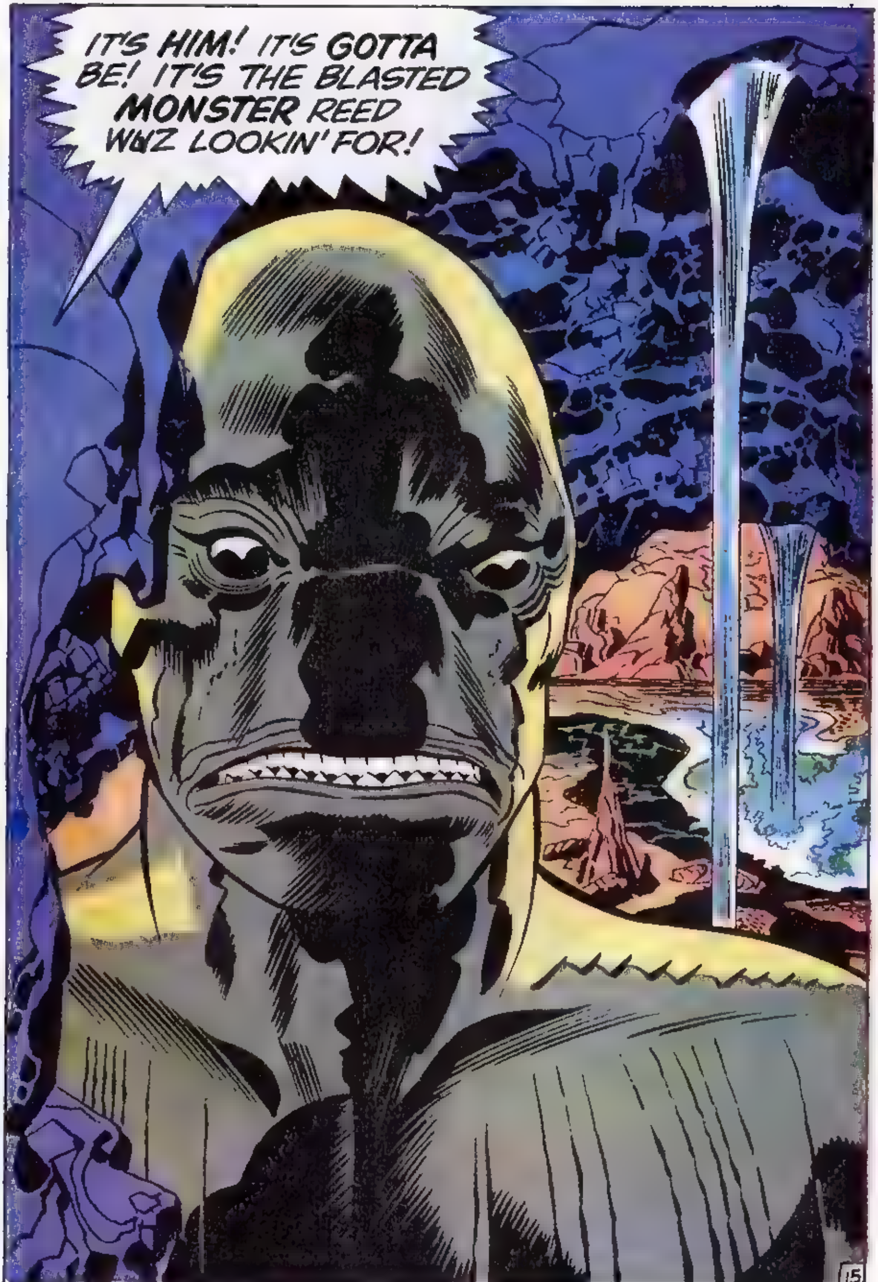
I ADMIT IT! I CAN'T STOP WONDERING ABOUT THE SO-CALLED MONSTER!
THERE ARE AS MANY STRANGE MYSTERIES BENEATH THE SEA AS THERE ARE IN DEEPEST SPACE!
WE KNOW THOSE SHIPS WERE ATTACKED BY SOMETHING IN LOST LAGOON... AND, WHATEVER IT WAS, IT'S TOO POWERFUL TO REMAIN THERE, FREE TO STRIKE AGAIN!
THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE... HOPING TO FIND SOME CLUE!
THIS OCEANARIUM BORDERS THE EDGE OF LOST LAGOON!
THERE MIGHT BE SOME ENTRANCES TO THE CAVES BELOW... SOMEWHERE DOWN THERE!
NEVER HAVE I SEEN A LIVING LIMB STRETCH THAT WAY!
HE SUSPECTS! HE PROBES FOR A CAVE BELOW!
I MUST SEIZE THE PILOT WHALE... HURL IT LIKE A TORPEDO!
PTANNG!
LOOK OUT!
MY ARM!
IF IT WERE NOT... SO PLIABLE... IT WOULD HAVE BEEN CRUSHED!
MAN! THAT WAS ONE MAD FISH!
YOU WERE IN THE WATER AT THE TIME! WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT SPOOKED THAT WHALE?
A REAL CHATTERBOX, AIN'T HE?
10

LISTEN... I HAVE A HUNCH ABOUT THE CAVES IN THIS AREA! I WANT TO EXPLORE THEM!
YOU'RE A MARINE EXPERT! WOULD YOU ACT AS OUR GUIDE?
HE THINKS TO TRICK ME! BUT I WILL GUIDE THEM! THAT WAY THEY WILL BE... THE VICTIMS!
BLASTED WHALE! COME ON UP 'N FIGHT LIKE A MAN!
SPLOOSH!
BEN! STOP CLOWNING AROUND!
DON'T TELL ME, FER PETE'S SAKE---
TELL THE WHALE!
IS THE AIR-SEA CRUISE CAR READY FOR US TO USE?
WELL, I WAS HOPING YOU'D VOLUNTEER!
THAT MEANS YA WANT ME TO GIT IT, HUH?
OUR SILENT FRIEND HERE IS GOING TO SERVE AS GUIDE!
IT SHOULD BE AN INTERESTING TOUR!
11.

A SHORT TIME LATER...
I WANT TO FIND THE DEEPEST CAVES IN THIS AREA!
HOW DOES HE KNOW HIS WAY AROUND HERE?
NOBODY CAN SWIM THIS FAR DOWN!
RIGHT! I'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR ANSWER TO JOHNNY'S QUESTION!
BUT, SUDDENLY...
HEY! I'M GITTIN' A CRAZY READIN' ON THE SONAR...
HE'S BEEN LEADIN' US DEEPER 'N DEEPER INTA SOME KINDA BOG!!
IT'S LIKE HE'S TRYIN' TA GIT US STUCK DOWN HERE... WITH NO WAY TA GIT OUT!
BUT HE'LL BE STUCK THE SAME AS US!
HEY! NOW WHAT'RE YA DOIN'..??
BTANNG!
HE SMASHED HIS WAY OUT... WITH ONE PUNCH!
12

THE BOG... IT'S PULLING US DOWN!
GREAT! THAT GIVES US A CHOICE...
IN CASE WE DON'T DROWN, WE CAN ALWAYS SUFFOCATE TA DEATH!
BEN! JOHNNY! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT... THRU THE OPENING HE MADE!
BUT WE'RE TOO FAR DOWN! THE PRESSURE'LL FINISH US!
STRETCHO'S RIGHT! WE GOT NOTHIN' TA LOSE!
MOVE IT! THIS AIR POCKET AIN'T GONNA LAST FOREVER!
THE SPEAR GUN... WILL HELP US...
IT'LL... FASTEN A LINE... TO THE ROCKY REEF WALL... THAT WE CAN HOLD ONTO...!
VISST!
QUICK! THE WATER'S RUSHING IN!!
IT'S NO GOOD! WE'RE DOWN TOO DEEP! WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT!
13

REED...'N THE KID... AIN'T GOT A CHANCE!
I'M THE ONLY ONE... CAN HOLD HIS BREATH LONG ENOUGH...!
BUT...I CAN'T LET 'EM DIE! I GOTTA DO SOMETHIN'!
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TA THEM...
NO! I AIN'T GONNA THINK OF IT!
ME, I'M A NOBODY...JUST A CRUMMY PIMPLE IN THE ACNE OF LIFE...
...BUT THEY'RE THE TWO GREATEST GUYS I EVER... HEY!
I MADE IT... I REACHED ONE'A THE CAVES UP ABOVE... AN' IT'S GOT AIR INSIDE!
THEY'RE STILL BREATHIN'! I JUST GOT 'EM HERE IN TIME!
BUT...I HEAR SOMETHIN'... BEHIND ME... THE SOUND'A PADDED FEET... COMIN' CLOSER...!
14



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HE'S MUMBLIN' SOMETHING... BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND NONE OF IT!
PROBABLY TRYIN' TA TELL ME HOW HE'S GONNA CLOBBER THE THREE OF US!
DON'T COME NO CLOSER, BALDY..I'M WARNIN' YA!
MISSED 'IM! I NEVER FIGGERED HE'D MOVE SO FAST!
SPOK!
BLOW!
HE KNOCKED ME OFF'A MY PINS... WITH ONE CRUMMY PUNCH!
EITHER I'M TURNIN' INTA A CREAMPUFF, OR HE'S CLEAN OUTTA-SITE!..AND I AIN'T NO CREAMPUFF!
OKAY, CHARLIE... NOW IT'S MY TURN!
16

HEY, WHAT GIVES? I CAN'T EVEN BUDGE YA!
BUT AT LEAST YA AIN'T TAKIN' ME BY SURPRISE NO MORE!
SURE WISH I COULD UNDER-STAND YER LINGO!
...SO'S I COULD FIND OUT WHAT KIND'A VITAMINS YA TAKE!
I'M GITTIN' 'IM NOW... HE'S FALLIN' BACK..!
BUT SUDDENLY...
HEY! WHO TURNED THE HEAT ON?
WHO DO YOU THINK, BLUE EYES?
SHOOOOSH!
STAY WITH IT, BOY! MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT! AS AN AMPHIBIAN, HE'S FEARFUL OF FLAME!
BUT WHO IS HE, REED? WHAT IS HE?
WE'RE BOUND TO FIND OUT... IF HE DOESN'T ESCAPE US!
QUICK... AFTER HIM! HE'S TRYING TO GET AWAY!

CAREFUL...HE MIGHT BE IN LEAGUE WITH OUR GUIDE...IT COULD BE A TRAP!
REED...WHAT IF HE'S FROM SOME STRANGE, UNDERSEA RACE?
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HOW CORNY CAN YA BE?
HEY...WE LOST HIM! HE COULD HAVE TAKEN ANY OF A DOZEN DIFFERENT PASSAGES!
KEEP YER DIAPERS ON, KID! OL' BASHFUL BENJY'LL DIG 'IM OUT!
THOOOOM!
ONE PUNCH'LL CRACK THESE WALLS LIKE A EGG-SHELL!
IT WORKED, BEN! THE CAVE IS LEVELLING OFF AHEAD OF US!
HOW COME YA ALWAYS GOTTA TELL US WHAT WE CAN SEE FER OURSELVES?
YOU IN LOVE WITH YER VOICE, OR SOMETHIN'?
LOOK! THERE HE IS...!
BUT...I NEVER EXPECTED TA SEE...NOTHIN' LIKE THAT!
REED! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
8

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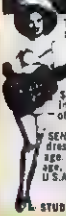

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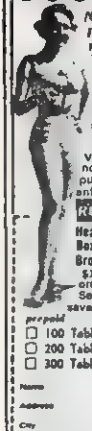

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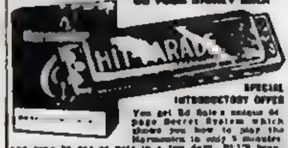

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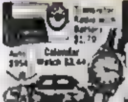

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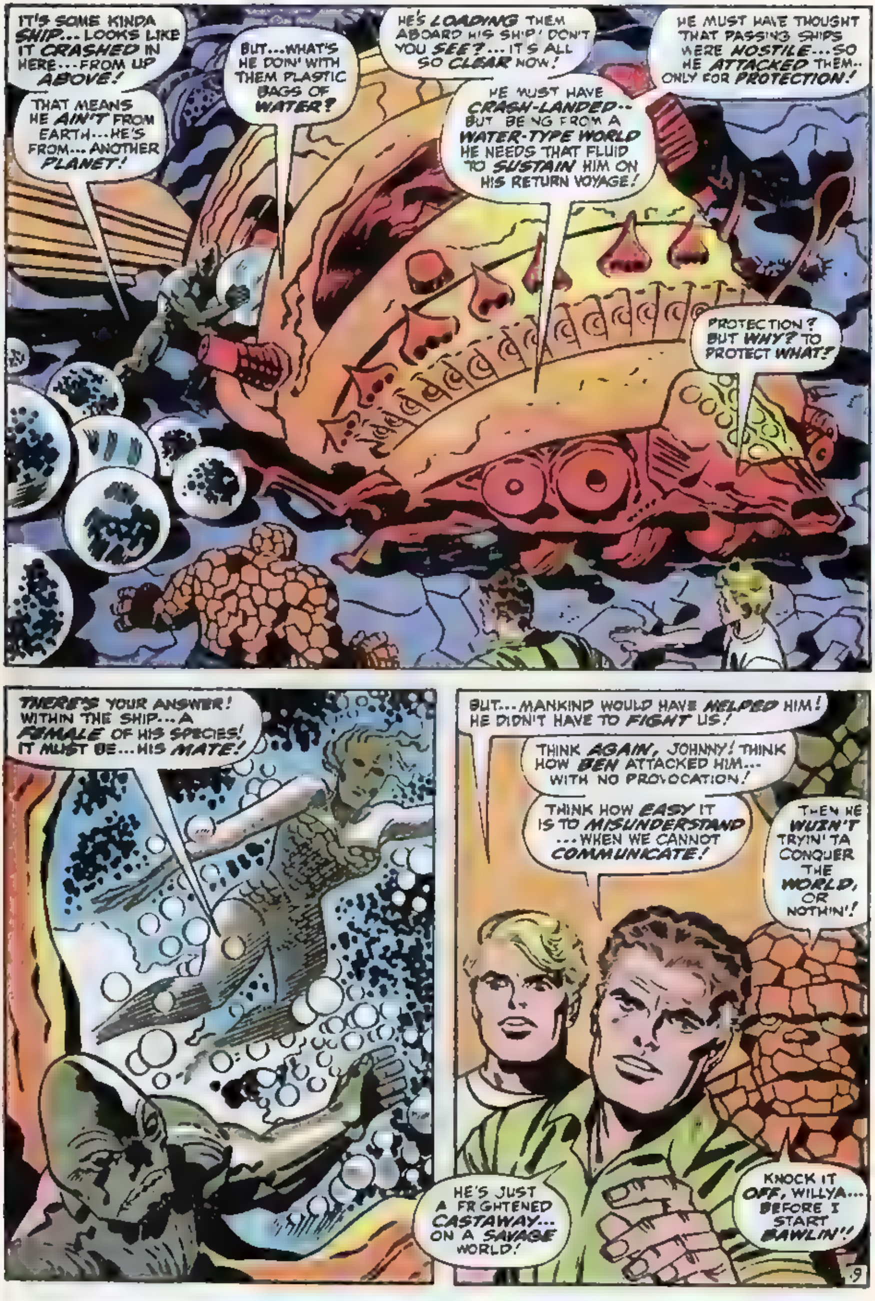
IT'S SOME KINDA SHIP... LOOKS LIKE IT CRASHED IN HERE... FROM UP ABOVE!
THAT MEANS HE AIN'T FROM EARTH... HE'S FROM... ANOTHER PLANET!
BUT... WHAT'S HE DOIN' WITH THEM PLASTIC BAGS OF WATER?
HE'S LOADING THEM ABOARD HIS SHIP! DON'T YOU SEE?... IT'S ALL SO CLEAR NOW!
HE MUST HAVE CRASH-LANDED-- BUT BEING FROM A WATER-TYPE WORLD HE NEEDS THAT FLUID TO SUSTAIN HIM ON HIS RETURN VOYAGE!
HE MUST HAVE THOUGHT THAT PASSING SHIPS WERE HOSTILE... SO HE ATTACKED THEM.. ONLY FOR PROTECTION!
PROTECTION? BUT WHY? TO PROTECT WHAT?
THERE'S YOUR ANSWER! WITHIN THE SHIP... A FEMALE OF HIS SPECIES! IT MUST BE... HIS MATE!
BUT... MANKIND WOULD HAVE HELPED HIM! HE DIDN'T HAVE TO FIGHT US!
THINK AGAIN, JOHNNY! THINK HOW BEN ATTACKED HIM... WITH NO PROVOCATION!
THINK HOW EASY IT IS TO MISUNDERSTAND ...WHEN WE CANNOT COMMUNICATE!
THEN HE WUZN'T TRYIN' TA CONQUER THE WORLD, OR NOTHIN'!
HE'S JUST A FRIGHTENED CASTAWAY... ON A SAVAGE WORLD!
KNOCK IT OFF, WILLYA... BEFORE I START BAWLIN'!
9

HE'S GESTURING TO US...TELLING US TO MOVE BACK!
HIS REPAIRS MUST BE FINALLY FINISHED! HE'S PREPARING TO BLAST OFF!
BUT WE DIDN'T LEARN ANYTHING ABOUT HIM... WHO HE IS... WHERE HE CAME FROM!!
AND I FEAR WE NEVER WILL!
ZUSSH!
LOOKS LIKE YER WRONG THIS TIME, MISTER!
HE AIN'T HEADED FER NO OTHER PLANET...HE ZUSSHED RIGHT DOWN INTA THE DEEP AGAIN!
HE HAD TO, FOR MAXIMUM THRUST!
LET'S CLIMB OUT OF HERE AND I'LL SHOW YOU!
REED! WHAT ABOUT OUR MURDEROUS GUIDE? WE'VE STILL GOT TO FIND THAT RAT!
IT--WON'T BE POSSIBLE, SON!
FIRST TIME I EVER HEARD YA GIVE UP SO FAST!
THERE HE GOES... STRAIGHT UP FROM THE SEA!
AND WITH HIM...THE SECRET OF OUR GUIDE!
DIDN'T YOU WONDER WHY OUR GUIDE NEVER SPOKE...HOW HE HAD THE STRENGTH TO PUNCH HIS WAY THRU OUR CRUISER?
YOU MEAN...IT WAS HIM...IN SOME SORT OF DISGUISE?
I'M AFRAID IT'S THE ONLY ANSWER!
NUTS! I CAN'T EVEN TELL IF WE WON OR NOT!
BUT ONE THING'S FER SURE... IF THEY EVER MAKE THIS INTA A MOVIE...THIS'LL BE THE PERFECT SPOT FER A FADE-OUT!
NEXT
MYSTERY ON THE MOON!

AWESOME ANNOUNCEMENTS CALCULATED TO ROUSE YOU INTO A SEETHING SEA OF LETHARGY!

Let's find out what has been happening to our batty Bullpen gang since we saw you last—

Our own STAN LEE and his old friend CARMINE INFANTINO (our leader's counterpart at National Periodical Publications) shared a lively lunch together recently. They got all misty-eyed talking over old times and speculating about what might have been—what could have been—and what new excitement is still in store for all of comicdom. And, in this dog-eat-dog world of ours, it's kind'a nice to know that a couple of all-out competitors can still retain their longtime respect and affection for each other. And now, while we pause to dry our eyes . . . ONWARD—

How many of you know that the cover depicting Joe Namath in a King Kong pose on a recent issue of ESQUIRE MAGAZINE, as well as the illustrations for the accompanying article within the mag, were drawn by our own MARVELOUS MARIE SEVERIN? (If that doesn't get her some free ducats to the Jets' next big bash, nothing will!)

Effective this month, BIG JOHN BUSCEMA is back at the artistic helm of the mighty AVENGERS once again. He claims to have missed all the cavortin' characters, as well as the fun of juggling eight or nine superheroes in one mixed-up mag. And we're celebrating his return with a tale about—but why tell you now? Read the Checklist and see for yourself!

And how's this for an eye-opener? JACK (KING) KIRBY has done both the script and the penciling for a dynamite thriller in the current ish of CHAMBER OF DARKNESS! For those of you who never knew that the Jolly One is as gifted a writer as he is an artist, this'll be a real serendipity. And, speaking of J.K., he and his radiant Roz are now building their own home in sunny California. He should worry how much we haveta spend on postage stamps!

Speaking of California, how about RASCALLY ROY THOMAS finally seeing his life-long idol, Elvis Presley, during a recent West Coast vacation where he also visited GROOVY GARY FRIEDRICH—who's now complete with a new moustache and a beauteous brand-new bride! Roy and his lovely wife Jean still haven't told us how they made out at the gaming tables of Las Vegas, but since the Rascally One hasn't borrowed anything more than the key to the washroom lately, we figure he did okay for himself!

And now, a final message to GENIAL GENE COLAN. We know we've been keeping you so busy you haven't had time to come to the Bullpen in weeks. But honest to Aunt Petunia, pal, you don't haveta keep introducing yourself every time you phone. We still remember you, Charlie!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

From time to time we receive letters from readers who wonder why there's so much moralizing in our mags. They take great pains to point out that comics are supposed to be escapist reading, and nothing more. But somehow, I can't see it that way. It seems to me that a story without a message, however subliminal, is like a man without a soul. In fact, even the most escapist literature of all—old-time fairy tales and heroic legends—contained moral and philosophical points of view. At every college campus where I may speak, there's as much discussion of war and peace, civil rights, and the so-called youth rebellion as there is of our Marvel mags per se. None of us lives in a vacuum—none of us is untouched by the everyday events about us—events which shape our stories just as they shape our lives. Sure our tales can be called escapist—but just because something's for fun, doesn't mean we have to blanket our brains while we read it!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel ous Mags On Sale Right Now.

FANTASTIC FOUR #97: The title's enough to tell you that it's Lee and Kirby at their greatest! "The Monster from the Lost Lagoon!" Take it from them, Irving!

SPIDER-MAN #83: Take a brand-new baddie called the Schemer! Mix with a sensational old-timer like the Kingpin! Add a desperate, battling Spidey! Instant action!

SILVER SURFER #14: This is almost too much to bear! The Surfer actually meets—and— battles—Spider-Man! As only Lee and Buscema could present it! 'Nuff said!

AVENGERS #74: A nation on the brink of crisis! The Black Panther wanted dead or alive! All this—and the Sons of the Serpent too! One of Marvel's mightiest!

THOR #174: He's mysterious! He's murderous! He's a walking hunk of mayhem! He's the mad, merciless Crypto-Man! And the God of Thunder has to face him!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #124: Her name is Suprema, and her evil enchantment turns the forces of Shield against Cap himself! It's daring! It's dazzling! It's different!

HULK #126: From beyond the dark edges of reality comes—the Night-Crawler! Featuring the most unlikely guest star of all—Dr. Strange! A chiller, all the way!

DAREDEVIL #62: The Man Without Fear is replaced by the mystery-cloaked new hero called Nighthawk! But, is he really a hero—or the most dangerous villain of all?

X-MEN #66: The target is the Hulk—the scene is Las Vegas—and the stakes are the life of Professor X! The greatest mutant masterwork yet!

IRON MAN #24: The coming of the Minotaur—perhaps the most terrifying, most tragic super-villain of all! And—the return of the menacing Madame Masque!

SUB-MARINER #24: The Human Killer Whale on one side—the treacherous Tiger Shark on the other! Can either Namor or sunken Atlantis escape total destruction?

SGT. FURY #76: Revealed at last—the startling secret of Nick Fury's father! With the greatest World War I flying exploits ever—not to mention the Red Baron!

CAPT. SAVAGE #19: The rampagin' Raiders return to the sea—in a submarine-packed adventure that'll really rock ya! Title: "They Serve in Silence!"

CHAMBER OF DARKNESS #4: A trio of night-shrouded shockers, carefully concocted to knock you outta your tree! With awesome artwork by three of Marvel's masters!

MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #26: Three great features—together under one metal-stapled roof! The F.F.—ol' Shellhead—and Doc Strange—in their greatest tales!

AND, OF COURSE—

MILLIE THE MODEL #181—CHILI #12—MAD ABOUT MILLIE #10—OUR LOVE STORY #4—KID COLT #144

AND, STILL ON SALE—

TOWER OF SHADOWS #4: A haunted house destroyed—a man killed, by a curse—and, the mortal peril of an escaped demon!! Need we say more?

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #25: the Hulk on a rampage!—the X-Men meet Sub-Mariner—and DD locks horns with the menacing Matador—Talk about bargains!

MARVEL TALES #25: Thor—the terrific Torch—and, oh yes, a guy called Spider-Man! If we put any more entertainment in one mag, they'd tax it!

Not to mention **WHERE MONSTERS DWELL #2—MY LOVE #4—RINGO KID #2—HOMER THE HAPPY GHOST #3**—and **PETER THE LITTLE PEST #3.** (Which we mentioned anyway.)

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Fantastic Four Fan Page

Send letters to LEE and KIRBY
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AV.
NEW YORK 10022 N. Y.

Dear Stan and Jack

In the Fantastic Four Special #6 Mr. Fantastic is saying "For, if ever one of us dared make contact with any type of Negative being the ensuing explosion would start an immediate chain reaction, of such unimaginable magnitude that it could destroy . an entire world!" Yet, you show Reed crowded with a melee of captives who undeniably made contact with Reed, if nothing else but one of them brushing against his arm. Also, you show Reed making contact with Annihilus' in the form of punching him on his face, (pages 13-14).

Also, farther back in issues #62 and #63, Blastaar and the Fantastic Four are in contact enough times to destroy our whole solar system. Now, I'm going to try to get you out of this mess I got you into.

When Blastaar entered into our positive universe his body, which is made up of negative particles, was instantly changed into positive particles as he came through the barrier that links our two universes. The same thing happens when Reed goes into negative space, but has the opposite effect. His particles, which are positive, are changed to negative particles. So, while he is from a positive universe, he is made up of negative particles while he is in negative space, and visa versa for a being from a negative universe. This law doesn't only apply to the "huge radical cube, for in issue #53 of X-MEN, Marvel Girl somehow brings Blastaar to earth. Nothing happens, because of this Law of Transformance which is consistent and constant throughout eternity

The Fantastic Four (Fantastic Five ?) is an extremely good magazine, matched only by THOR and SPIDER MAN.

Walter Von Schondeld, 357 Valley Blvd.
Wood Ridge, New Jersey 07075

Looks to us, Walt, as if what you're really saying is that only THOR and SPIDEY could possibly make as many goofs as have been recently perpetrated in the pages of FANTASTIC FOUR. But, praise is where you find it, friend——and we thank thee for thy kind words——and the awesome alibi. And the next time we run into Blastaar in some Neutral Zone, we'll check out your theory. Okay?

Dear Stan and Jack,

All right! That's it! In the words of Popeye: That's all I can stand, 'cause I can't stands no more!" Just who do these folks who wanna change the FF to the Fantastic Five think they are, anyway? The FF's been around for about eight years now, struggling from those early, bygone days when Benjy's head was shaped like Charlie Brown's, to the awe-inspiring success it is today. Even though a fellow Marvel-man named Spidey outsells them, I betcha a fan of you-know-who would know more about the FF than about 'ol Webhead.

The FF started a new breed of comics, and is a constant example of what a comic mag should be. And now a bunch of cats come along and want to change that proud name over something as quibbling as Crystal being a member of the group. Fer cryin' out loud! The FF isn't the Avengers or the X-Men! They're the Fantastic Four! F-o-u-r, four! Just as the X-Men are made up of mutants, the Inhumans of Inhumans, and the Avengers of anyone who drops by to say hello, the FF is made up of four people who gained their powers in a brave attempt to get to the moon (I think)! Crystal may fight alongside the FF and marry Johnny, but she'll always be an Inhuman, not one of the Fantastics. And with that, I rest my case

PMM Eric Shratter, 2112 Mythewood Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

And, while we're waiting to here from more of the still-silent masses of Marveldom on the subject, Eric, we might as well mention that, down deep, we probably agree with you. We'd hate to change the name of the mag ourselves, because it has a deep sentimental attachment to the whole blamed Bullpen as the first mag of the new Marvel Age of Comics. However, since there are five characters currently running around in the mag——and since the Inhuman called Crystal is indeed wearing an F.F. costume, we were just wondering if perhaps we should recognize a fait accompli and make her a member for good. The verdict is still out, however——but thanks for your "nay" vote. Your reasons for maintaining the status quo got us all choked up, lad!

Dear Stan,

I don't often write to my favorite group like this, but I feel I must take pen in hand once more.

There is a gap in your magazines that should be filled. Most fans should see that you are using too much dialogue in your best mags (FANTASTIC FOUR, SILVER SURFER, SPIDEY, and THOR) and not enough of those caption boxes. Too much talk is dreary——the story has more beauty when your poetic eloquence shines through in the captions, Stan. It adds more, leaves an impression behind, and gives more feeling. Sometimes you really shine, and your philosophy goes deep down, but it is put through more effectively in the above-mentioned, without conversation. So, please write and express yourself more, and leave the talk for the other mags

You realize that this sincere criticism is only for the benefit of your brilliant magazines.

Nabeel Audeh, Bireh-Ramallah
Via Israel, West Bank

Smiley says he realizes it, Nabeel——but it still hurts!

Too much dialogue——and not enough captions? Funny—it's always seemed to Stan, Roy, and our other agonizin' writers that a superhero story should rely primarily on what the characters say——and only secondarily on what a caption says about them. But we're open to disagreement, friend——and, if anybody out in the great wide world is on ol' Stan's side in this little set-to, we hope that you are, too.

KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

R.F.O. (Real Frantic One)—A buyer of at least 3 Marvel mags a month.

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Q.N.S. (Quite 'Nuff Sayer) — A fortunate frantic one who's had a letter printed.

K.O.F. (Keeper Of the Flame) — One who recruits a newcomer to Marvel's rollickin' ranks.

P.M.M. (Permanent Marvelite Maximus)—Anyone possessing all four of the other titles.

F.F.F. (Fearless Front-Facer) — An honorary title bestowed for devotion to Marvel above and beyond the call of duty.

Dear Stan, and Jack,

I have a request to make of you. No, it is more than request. It is a demand, and I ask the support of Marveldom Assembled.

For years we have put up with the Thing/Ben conflict, and I, for one, am tired of it when a logical and simple solution is so obvious. At least the solution is simple in terms of the form of media in which you deal. What is it? Elementary, my dear sirs. Let Alicia see! Ben does not hate his appearance for its own sake but because he doubts Alicia's love to be lasting if she should ever realize what he is. With her sight restored, all doubts would be done away with. Either Ben would lose Alicia, which I very much doubt, or else that long awaited moment of blessed matrimony between Ben and Alicia will take place. An occasion long overdue.

This is the only possible solution, and I once again ask your readers' support––and the ears of the Bullpen.

Richard Colson, 2318 Broadway
Rockford, Ill. 61108

You've got 'em, Rich––even if we're not certain what good they'll do you. The matter of the long-standing romance between Ben and Alicia has plagued and perplexed us since she first made her debut as the step-daughter of the Puppet-Master 'way back in 1962. Will it ever be resolved? We're not saying––but when you consider that we eventually married off Sue and Reed––and later Hank and Jan of the Avengers––and that even ol' Daredevil has revealed his secret identity to his lady love––well, let's just say that stranger things have happened, Mr. C.!

Dear Stan, and Jack,

I'm beginning to wonder how you guys do it! I mean, I know the FF is "The World's Greatest Comic Magazine" and indeed, the Fantastic Four represent four of the most intensely interesting and original characters ever to be depicted in modern literature. And yet, even with the greatest, one can usually expect a fair share of misses along with the hits. At least, that's what I thought. However, after taking another careful perusal of the past nine issues, I must admit that I was wrong.

F F #84 marked the beginning of the most carefully and expertly plotted, the most graphically superb stories I have ever read in any comic magazine. Oh, I tried to find some flaws, but was totally unsuccessful. (So Benjy can't blow down a door––I'm no nitpicker, either!) After reading the conclusion of the Doom masterpiece in #87, I said slyly to myself, "This was fantastic, but the next issue is bound to be a letdown." Famous last words!! #88 was as great as the previous one, and was, in fact, one of the finest tales Marvel has ever published. Not only that, but it paved the way for the return of the Mole Man in ish #89. What impressed me most about his return was the fact that through the years the Mole Man has somehow grown even more malevolent and bitter than before. Never have I seen him quite so pitiful, quite so wretched and Gollum-ish. And yet, it is logical. After all those years of living in blindness in Subterranea, after all the defeats he has suffered, it is only natural that these would further affect his already-warped mind.

As for the current Skrull-Thing story, let me congratulate you on a fine satire, spiced with drama and excitement. Your characterization is as superb as ever, though at times your satire is much too obvious. Napoleon G. Robberson was a bit much, but on the whole it's a novel idea, very well-written and illustrated, with very little to complain about. I am anxiously awaiting the conclusion in the next issue.

By the way, if you intend to keep Crystal on as a full-fledged and naturally, full-time member of the FF, then it would more accurate and logical to change the name to FANTAST FIVE. If, however, Crystal will be a fairly regular but not necessarily permanent member, then such a title change is unnecessary. I think Crystal adds to the team considerably and would like to see her stay on. But think of the complications that will arise when you finally give The Inhumans their own mag: Crystal, who is one of the most well-known Inhumans, will not be able to appear in two magazines a month––at least not consistently. Of course, Black Bolt, Medusa, Karnak, and Gorgon are such superior characters that The Inhumans' mag would not even need the Exquisite Elemental to be great.

Also: When are you going to give our Latverian Lord his own book? We Doom-followers are impatient people, you know!

What all the above is supposed to say is: keep up the great work you have done, are doing and, I'm sure, will be doing on the F F––truly the world's greatest!!

Achille Di Bacco, 1701 Terrace Drive West, Lake Clarke Terrace
Lake Worth, Florida 33460

We like to think so, Achille. Now, if only we could make up our minds as to whether those immortal letters "F F" stand for "Fantastic Four" or "Fantastic Five"! (And we'd best cut out now, before somebody belatedly informs us that they actually stand for "Fearless Forbush"!)

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
ACT OF OCTOBER 23, 1962; SECTION 4369, TITLE 39, UNITED STATES CODE

1. Date of Filing: October 1, 1969.

2. Title of Publication: THE FANTASTIC FOUR.

3. Frequency of Issue: Monthly, except Nov. semi-mo.

4. Location of Known Office of Publication: 625 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

5. Location of the Headquarters or General Business Offices of the Publishers: 625 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

6. Names and addresses of the publisher, editor, and managing editor are: Publisher: Martin Goodman, 625 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022; Editor: Stan Lee, 625 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022; Managing Editor: Sol Brodsky, 625 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

7. Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given.) Magazine Management Company, 625 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

8. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities (If there are none, so state) are: None.

9. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates. (Section 132.122, Postal Manual.) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes. (Check one.) ☐ Have not changed during preceding 12 months. ☐ Have changed during preceding 12 months. (If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.)

10. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION.

A. Total No. Copies Printed (net press run): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 546,820; single issue nearest to filing date: 528,500.

B. Paid Circulation: 1) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 338,421; single issue nearest to filing date: 328,188. 2) Mail subscriptions. Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 1,942; single issue nearest to filing date: 2,206.

C. Total paid circulation: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 340,363; single issue nearest to filing date: 330,394.

D. Free distribution (including samples) by mail, carrier or other means: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 110; single issue nearest to filing date: 110.

E. Total distribution (sum of C and D): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 340,473; single issue nearest to filing date: 330,504.

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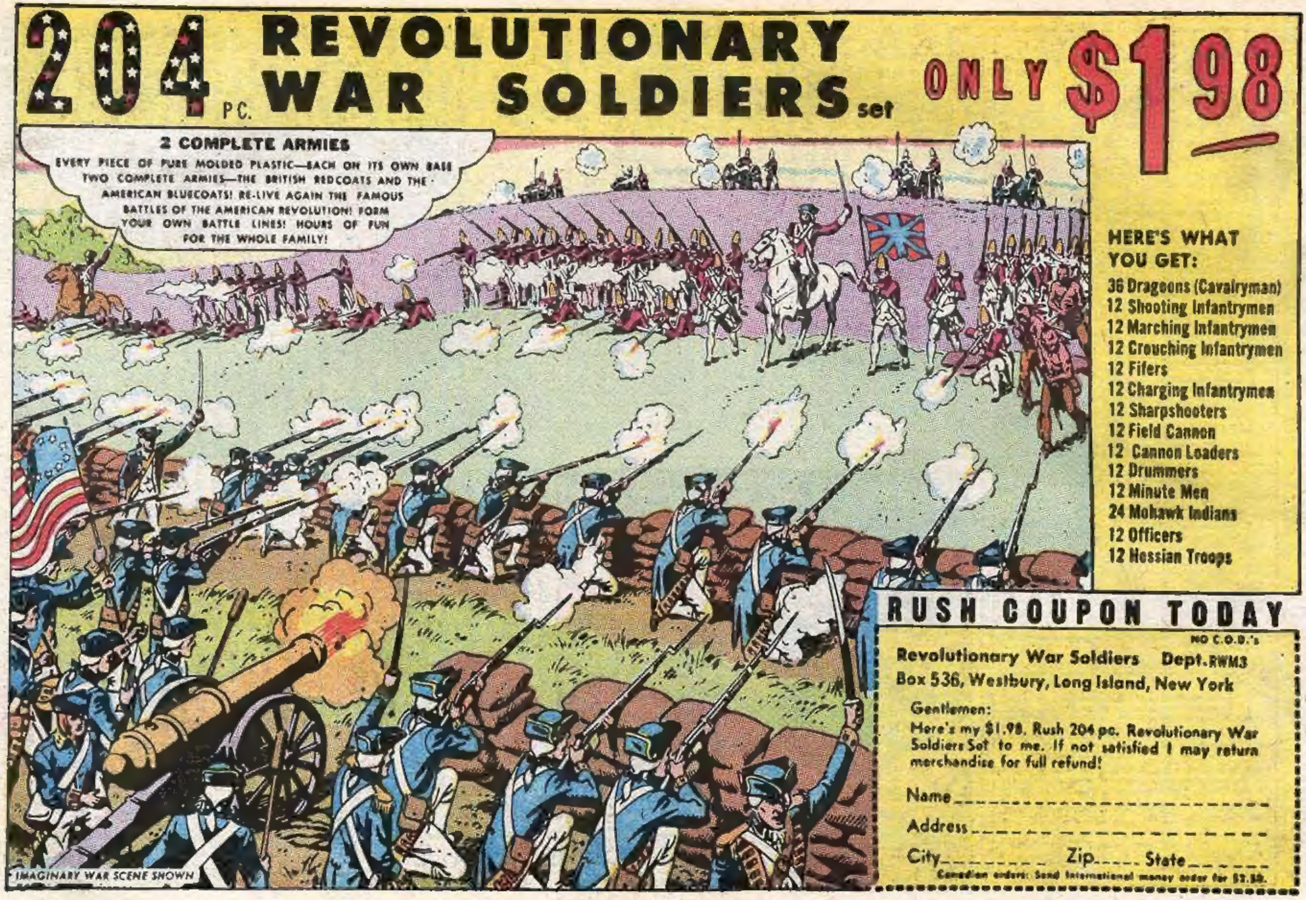
I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

(Signed) JOHN F. HAYES
(Business Manager)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The reliability of this method of screening, as well as the effectiveness of the training, has been proven again and again by the impressive record of success of our students and graduates.

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